ABSOLUTE
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FAJARDO JR.

DON'T MISS THE OPENING ROUNDS THIS OCTOBER

JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE OMEGA ACT SPECIAL

TITANS #28

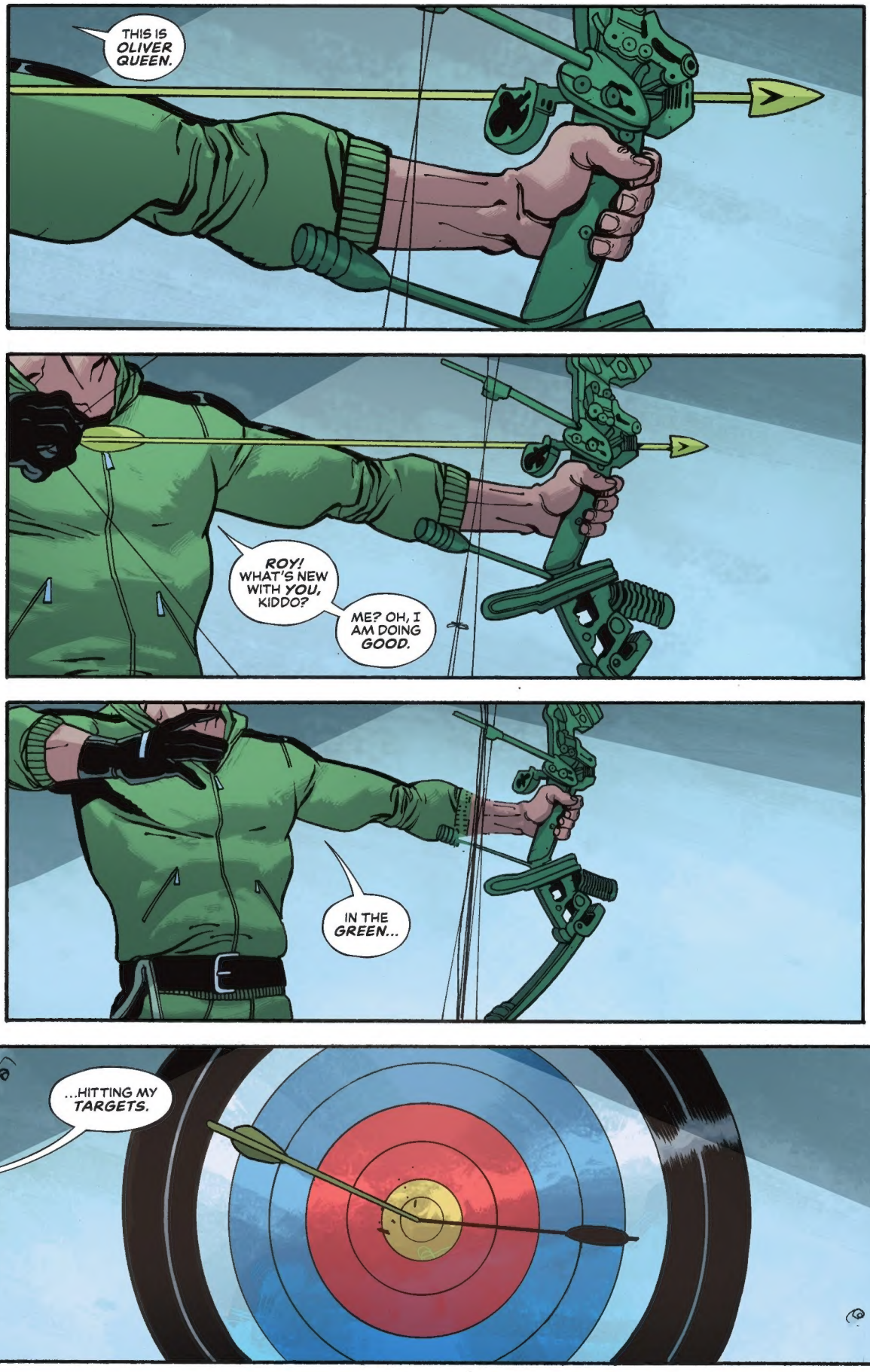
THE FLASH #26

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #12

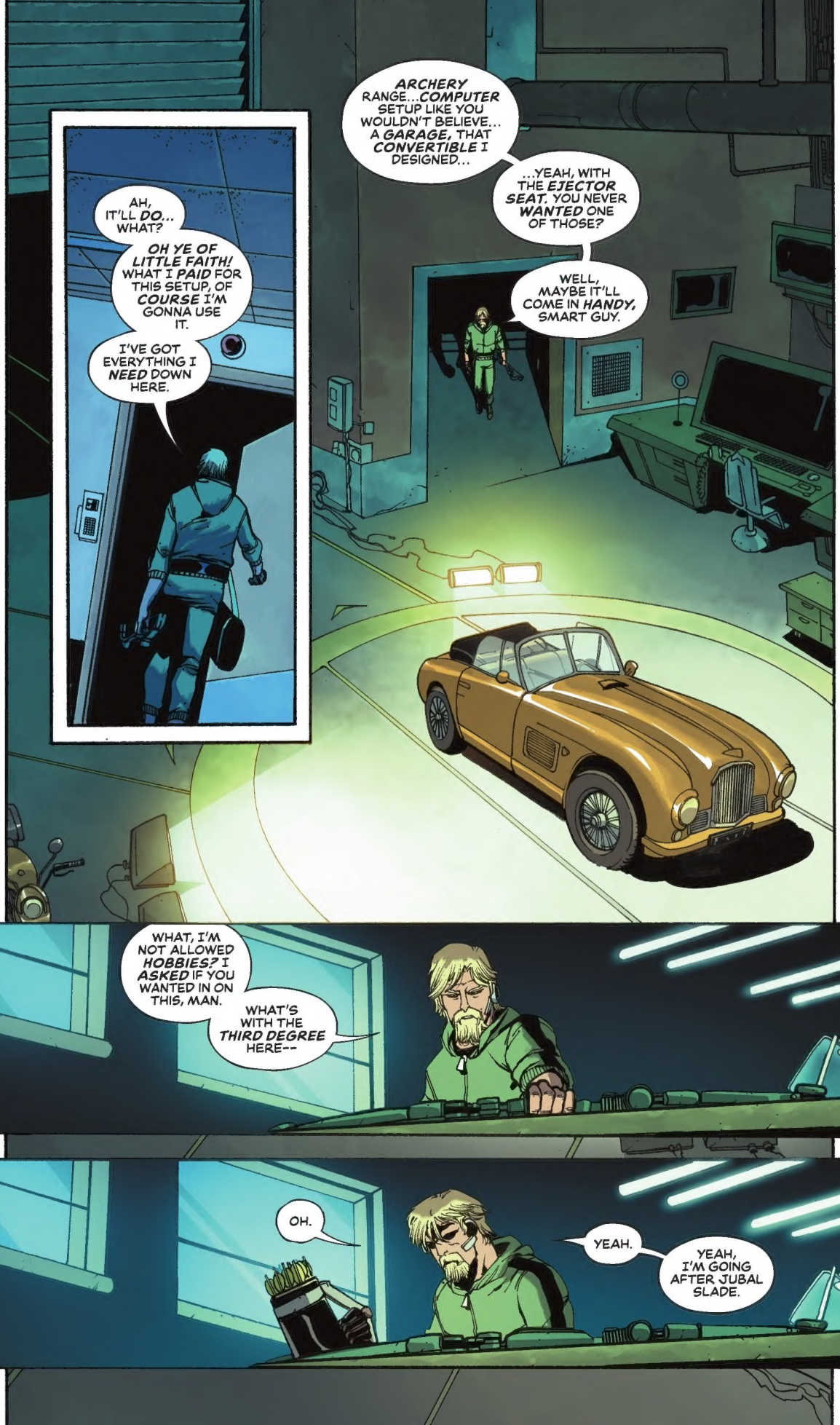
SUPERMAN #31

THE ACTION INTENSIFIES IN NOVEMBER AND BEYOND!

1951.
GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE...
...YOU CALLED ME TO THIS CLOSED-DOOR SESSION TO ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS. I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT THE ANSWERS.
DURING MY COVERT WORK AS THE HAWKMAN, MY TRUE IDENTITY HAS REMAINED MY OWN SECRET. NOW YOU SAY I HAVE TO GIVE THAT SECRET UP.
MY FACE, MY NAME, MY LIFE--I DO CONSIDER THESE MY OWN BUSINESS. BUT SOMETIMES, BUSINESS TAKES A BACK SEAT TO PLEASURE...AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT'LL BE A REAL PLEASURE TO INFORM ON THE COMMIE RATS NIBBLING AWAY AT THIS GREAT COUNTRY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW, BOYS?
COMMUNIST PARTY
RGANIZATION U.S.A-FEB. 9, 195


THIS IS OLIVER QUEEN.
ROY! WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU, KIDDO?
ME? OH, I AM DOING GOOD.
IN THE GREEN...
...HITTING MY TARGETS.

NOW.
HA! YOU HEARD THAT, HUH? YOU GOT ME, KID-- GUILTY AS CHARGED.
I'M DOWN IN THE ARROW-CAVE.
YEAH, I'M PRACTICING MY PARTY PIECE.
THE ROBIN HOOD BIT--
DAMN!
SO CLOSE!


ARCHERY RANGE...COMPUTER SETUP LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE... A GARAGE, THAT CONVERTIBLE I DESIGNED...
...YEAH, WITH THE EJECTOR SEAT. YOU NEVER WANTED ONE OF THOSE?
WELL, MAYBE IT'LL COME IN HANDY, SMART GUY.
AH, IT'LL DO... WHAT?
OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH! WHAT I PAID FOR THIS SETUP, OF COURSE I'M GONNA USE IT.
I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED DOWN HERE.
WHAT, I'M NOT ALLOWED HOBBIES? I ASKED IF YOU WANTED IN ON THIS, MAN.
WHAT'S WITH THE THIRD DEGREE HERE--
OH.
YEAH.
YEAH, I'M GOING AFTER JUBAL SLADE.

NO, IT'S-- LOOK, I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIS ISLAND, RIGHT? ALL THOSE PRIVATE FLIGHTS, JUST KIDS--
BECAUSE HE'S BOUGHT THE COPS, ROY! HE'S BOUGHT THE COURTS! THE SYSTEM WAS BUILT FOR GUYS LIKE THIS!
I-I-I GOTTA DO SOMETHING. SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO SOMETHING... WHAT?

WHY NOT ME? ALL THIS STUFF I HAVE, THIS MONEY. WHAT DOES IT DO? WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY DOING HERE? ANY OF US? BECAUSE SOMETHING IS--IT'S KILLING US ALL, MAN!
SOME, SOME MORAL CANCER IS--IT'S ROTTING US INSIDE!

ROTTING OUR SOULS!
DON'T TELL ME TO CALM DOWN--ROY, I MEAN IT. YOU CAN BE IN OR OUT, BUT I'M SERIOUS.
THIS IS THE WAY I MAKE A-- A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW?

THIS IS THE DIRECTION I WAS ALWAYS HEADED!

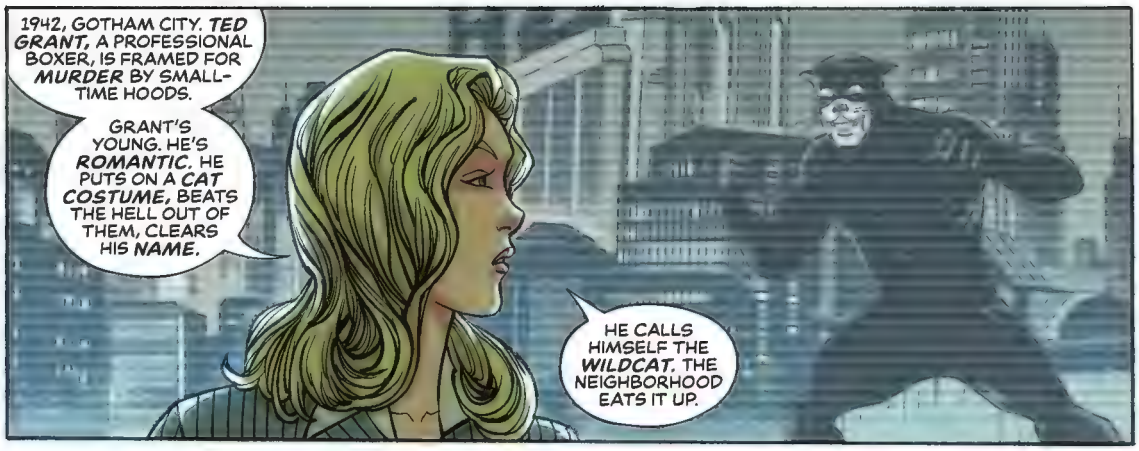
SOMETIMES THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES, JUBAL.
A GUY TURNS FORTY, GETS A GRAY HAIR, GETS IDEAS.
I BOUGHT A MASERATI. QUEEN GREW A CONSCIENCE. IT HAPPENS.
BUT TAKE A BREATH HERE. WHAT CAN HE ACTUALLY DO? WHAT'S HIS NEXT MOVE?
HE TALKS BIG, SURE--BUT IT'S OLLIE, Y'KNOW? HE DOESN'T WANT RESULTS, HE WANTS TO FEEL RIGHTEOUS.
AND NOTHING FEELS MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN LOSING.
GET HIM AROUND A TABLE, THIS GOES AWAY IN A MONTH--I DON'T KNOW, FIVE MILLION? CHUMP CHANGE, SWEETIE.
JUST TRUST ME HERE, JUBES. I KNOW THIS GUY. OLLIE QUEEN IS NEVER GOING TO SURPRISE ANYBODY--
MR. HAMMOND?
GIMME A SEC. YEAH, LITTLE PEOPLE.
I'LL CALL YOU RIGHT BACK.
WE'RE DETECTING SOME ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON YOUR PERSON.
YOU WERE MADE AWARE OF THE STIPULATIONS OF TODAY'S MEETING?

SURE, SURE, BUT...YOU KNOW WHO I *AM*, RIGHT? MY BUSINESS IS WORTH MORE THAN MOST *COUNTRIES*.
I NEED TO BE IN CONTACT WITH THE *OFFICE*--
IT'S A *CONDITION OF ATTENDANCE*, MR. HAMMOND. *INFORMATIONAL BOUNDARIES* MUST BE *MAINTAINED*.
NATIONAL SECURITY.
IF YOU'D RATHER *NOT* ATTEND THIS MEETING--
YEAH, YEAH. SURE, SURE.
SHOULD I TAKE OFF MY *BELT AND SHOES?*
THANK YOU, SIR.
IF YOU'D LIKE TO FOLLOW ME.
SURE. AND MAYBE WHEN I'M *IN* THERE, I'LL TALK TO YOUR *BOSS* ABOUT THE *ATTITUDE*.
SEE HOW *THAT* GOES FOR YOU--
HECTOR HAMMOND.

GLAD YOU COULD FINALLY JOIN US.
VERONICA CALE, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. I'M THE BOSS.
YOU HAD SOMETHING TO SAY?
IF WE'RE DOING COFFEE ORDERS, I'LL TAKE A MACCHIATO, SWEETHEART--
NO.
THIS ROOM IS NOT FOR GAMES. IT IS NOT FOR PLAY.
SPEAK OF WORK OR DO NOT SPEAK.
WHO IN HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE...?

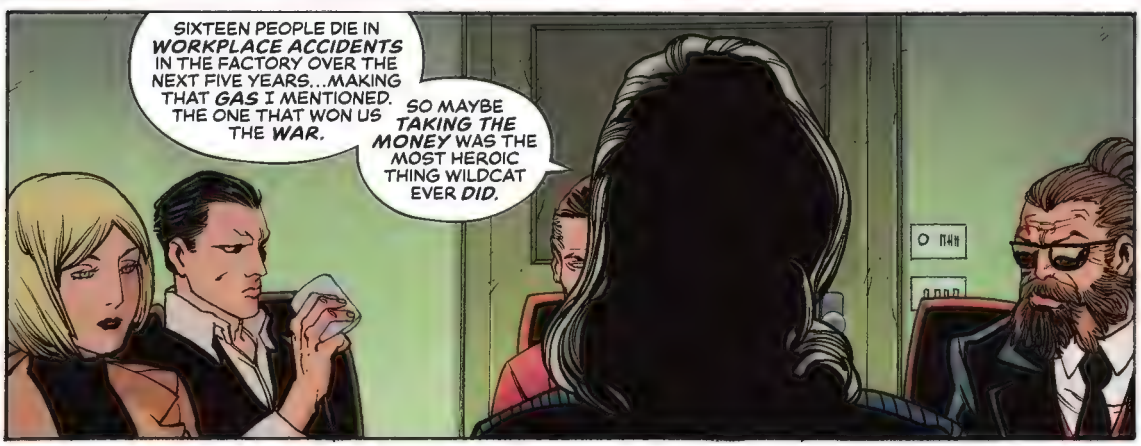
I AM RA'S AL GHUL.
IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS... BE GLAD.
AND BE SILENT.
I WAS BEING RHETORICAL, YOU PUTZ--
I HAVE TO SIDE WITH MR. AL GHUL ON THIS.
OUR TIME IS MORE VALUABLE THAN ANY RESOURCE ON EARTH, HAMMOND.
FAR TOO PRECIOUS TO WASTE ON YOUR LITTLE JOKES.
AGREED.
I DON'T ENJOY JOKES.
YEAH.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, LAUGHING BOY...
IF WE ALL KNOW WHO WE ARE, CAN WE GET ON WITH THIS?
I KNOW I'VE GOT WORK TO DO...

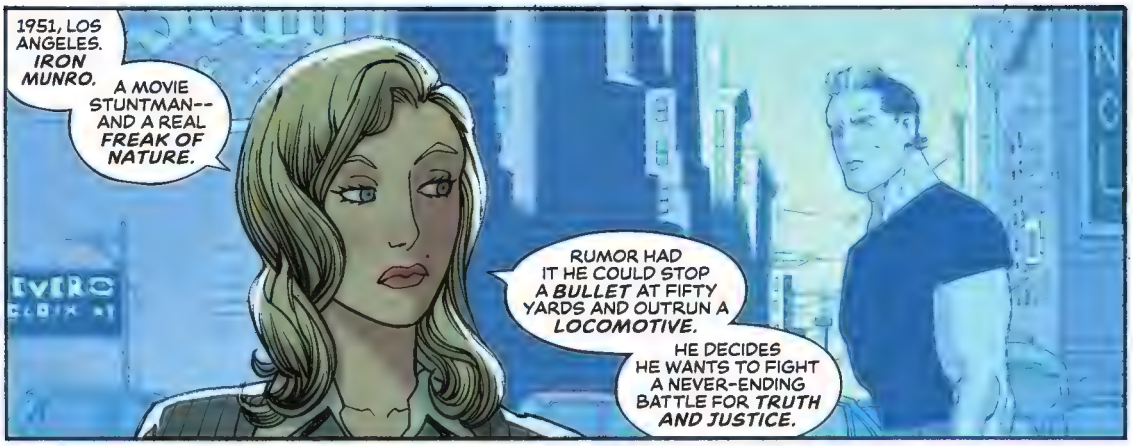
THANK YOU, DR. THAWNE. LET'S BEGIN.
NEW YORK, 1939. CHEMIST WESLEY DODDS GETS RICH OFF HIS PATENTS FOR IMPROVED ANESTHETIC COMPOUNDS.
"SOON AFTER, A MASKED DETECTIVE CALLED THE SANDMAN MAKES WAVES IN THE SOCIETY PAGES, ARMED WITH A NONLETHAL SLEEP GAS.
"WESLEY DODDS IS YOUNG, IDEALISTIC, ROMANTIC. IT'S NOT HARD TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER...
"...EVEN BEFORE DODDS IS FOUND SHOT DEAD IN HIS SANDMAN SUIT. HIS BASEMENT LABORATORY'S BEEN RANSACKED.
"A YEAR LATER, THE U.S. MILITARY ACQUIRES SOME NEW AND VERY LETHAL NERVE GAS WEAPONS.
WAS THAT LETHAL GAS BREWED FROM DODDS'S STOLEN NOTES? ASK THE CONSPIRACY THEORISTS.
DID IT WIN US THE WAR? ASK THE HISTORIANS.
THEY'LL SAY YES.

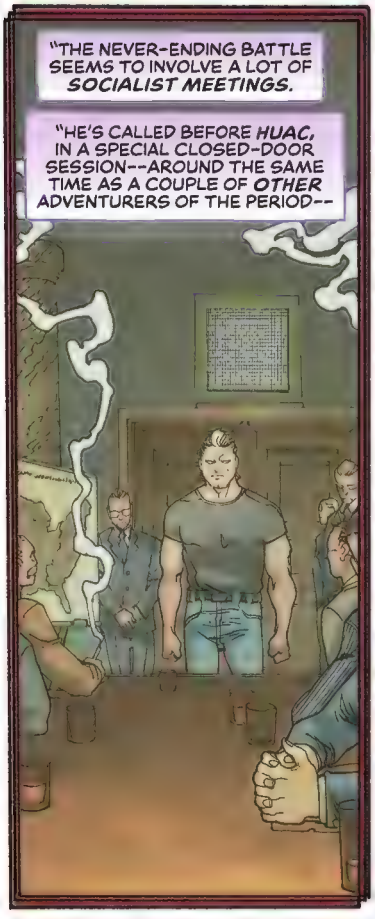

1942, GOTHAM CITY. TED GRANT, A PROFESSIONAL BOXER, IS FRAMED FOR MURDER BY SMALL-TIME HOODS.
GRANT'S YOUNG. HE'S ROMANTIC. HE PUTS ON A CAT COSTUME, BEATS THE HELL OUT OF THEM, CLEARS HIS NAME.
HE CALLS HIMSELF THE WILDCAT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD EATS IT UP.

"SO HE BUSTS SOME MORE SMALL-TIME HOODS, THEN MEDIUM-TIME HOODS--WORKING HIS WAY UP.
"ON A STAKEOUT, HE OVERHEARS A FACTORY INSPECTOR TAKING A BRIBE FROM A MUNITIONS MAGNATE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY ON SAFETY STANDARDS.
"AND THEN...
GOTHAM CITY
DOCKS

"...HE COMES INTO FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, TAX FREE. AND THAT'S THE END OF WILDCAT.
"GRANT BUYS A GYM IN SCHENECTADY, TRAINS A COUPLE OF CHAMPIONS, DIES PEACEFULLY IN HIS SLEEP AGED 81.
GOTHAM CITY
DOCKS

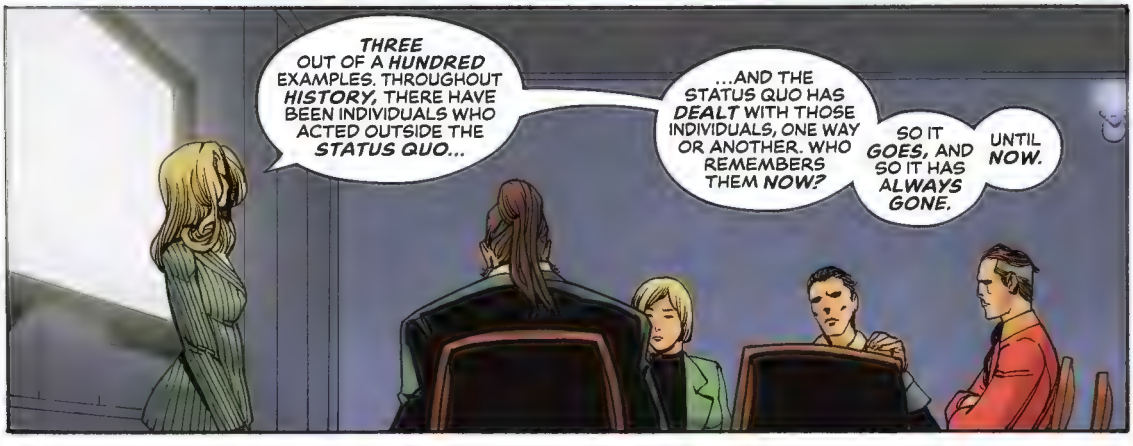

SIXTEEN PEOPLE DIE IN WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS IN THE FACTORY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS...MAKING THAT GAS I MENTIONED. THE ONE THAT WON US THE WAR.
SO MAYBE TAKING THE MONEY WAS THE MOST HEROIC THING WILDCAT EVER DID.

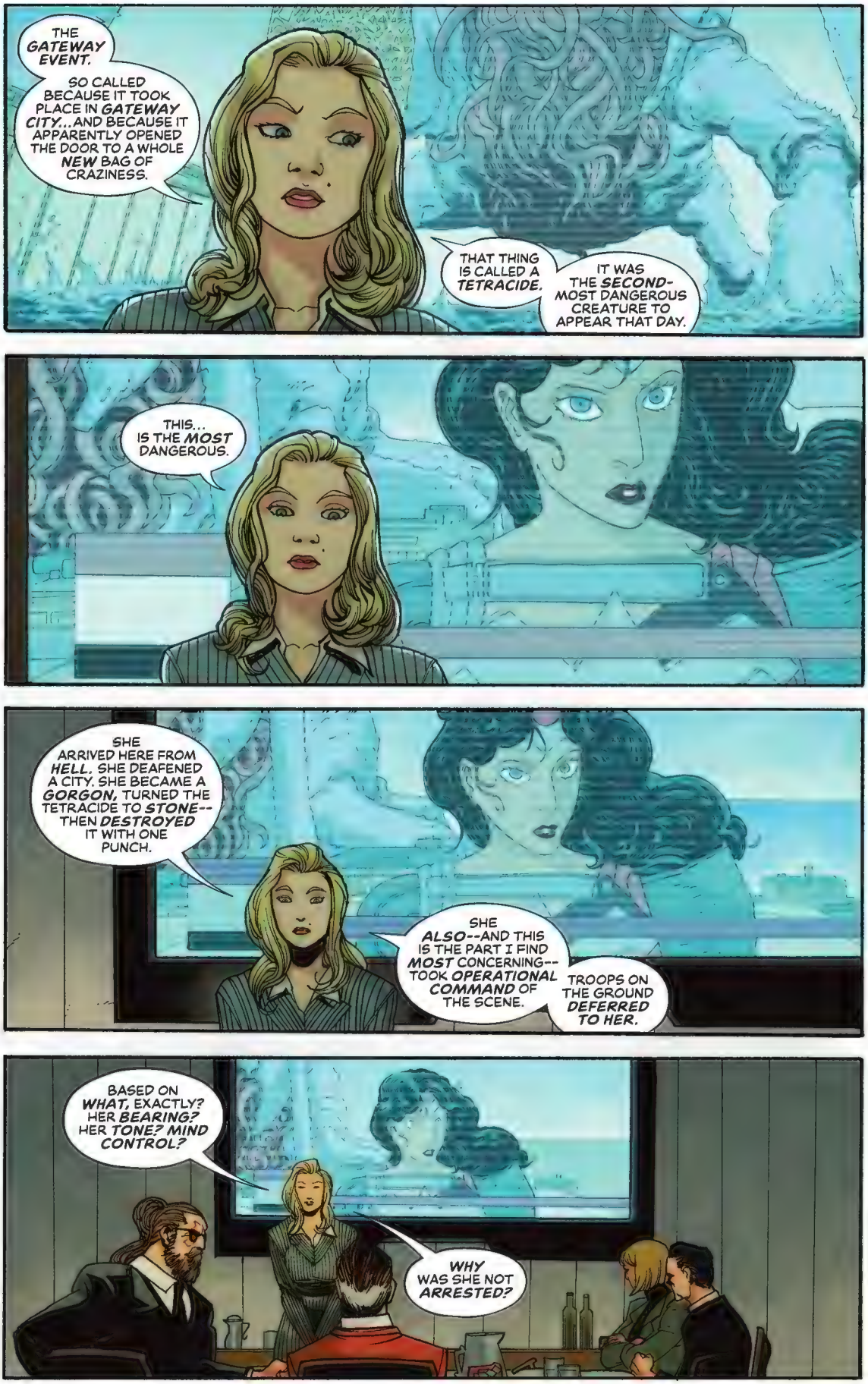

1951, LOS ANGELES. IRON MUNRO.
A MOVIE STUNTMAN--AND A REAL FREAK OF NATURE.
RUMOR HAD IT HE COULD STOP A BULLET AT FIFTY YARDS AND OUTRUN A LOCOMOTIVE.
HE DECIDES HE WANTS TO FIGHT A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE.


"THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE SEEMS TO INVOLVE A LOT OF SOCIALIST MEETINGS.
"HE'S CALLED BEFORE HUAC, IN A SPECIAL CLOSED-DOOR SESSION--AROUND THE SAME TIME AS A COUPLE OF OTHER ADVENTURERS OF THE PERIOD--

"--BUT MUNRO REFUSES TO NAME NAMES. CALLS McCARTHY A 'DEMAGOGUE.' THAT'S THE END OF HIM.
"WITHIN A YEAR, HE'S LIVING IN A LONELY SHACK IN THE NEVADA DESERT...

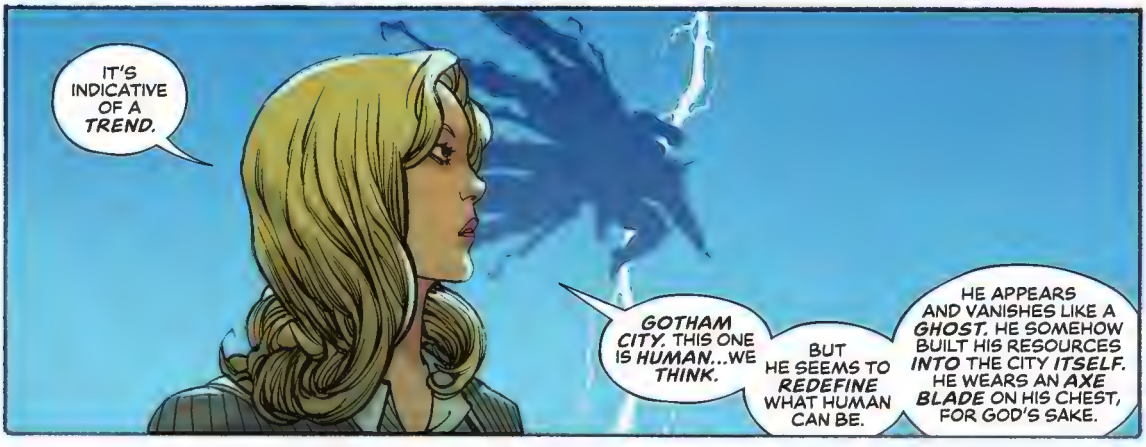
"...WHICH IS ACCIDENTALLY TARGETED FOR A CHEMICAL WEAPONS TEST. SOMEONE FILED THE WRONG PAPERWORK, APPARENTLY.
"MUNRO'S LUNGS WEREN'T AS TOUGH AS THE REST OF HIM... BUT THEY WERE JUST AS RED.


THREE OUT OF A HUNDRED EXAMPLES. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THERE HAVE BEEN INDIVIDUALS WHO ACTED OUTSIDE THE STATUS QUO...
...AND THE STATUS QUO HAS DEALT WITH THOSE INDIVIDUALS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. WHO REMEMBERS THEM NOW?
SO IT GOES, AND SO IT HAS ALWAYS GONE.
UNTIL NOW.


THE GATEWAY EVENT.
SO CALLED BECAUSE IT TOOK PLACE IN GATEWAY CITY...AND BECAUSE IT APPARENTLY OPENED THE DOOR TO A WHOLE NEW BAG OF CRAZINESS.
THAT THING IS CALLED A TETRACIDE.
IT WAS THE SECOND-MOST DANGEROUS CREATURE TO APPEAR THAT DAY.
THIS... IS THE MOST DANGEROUS.
SHE ARRIVED HERE FROM HELL. SHE DEAFENED A CITY. SHE BECAME A GORGON, TURNED THE TETRACIDE TO STONE--THEN DESTROYED IT WITH ONE PUNCH.
SHE ALSO--AND THIS IS THE PART I FIND MOST CONCERNING--TOOK OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE SCENE.
TROOPS ON THE GROUND DEFERRED TO HER.
BASED ON WHAT, EXACTLY? HER BEARING? HER TONE? MIND CONTROL?
WHY WAS SHE NOT ARRESTED?

AT THE SAME TIME, WORD SPREADS OF ANOTHER CREATURE. THIS ONE IS MALE.
VIOLENTLY DISRUPTING LAZARUS CORP OPERATIONS IN BRAZIL. SHRUGGING OFF ARTILLERY THAT WOULD HAVE BLOWN A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH IRON MUNRO.
MELTING TANKS WITH ITS EYES.

FOLLOWING WHICH, A TRAINED PEACEMAKER AGENT IGNORES THE BRAINIAC ALGORITHM'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND WRITES HER AFTER-ACTION REPORT DIRECTLY.
IN SOMEWHAT... POETIC DETAIL.
HRMM. YOU ARE MORE INTERESTED IN HOW THE REPORT WAS WRITTEN THAN THE CONTENTS...?


IT'S INDICATIVE OF A TREND.
GOTHAM CITY. THIS ONE IS HUMAN...WE THINK.
BUT HE SEEMS TO REDEFINE WHAT HUMAN CAN BE.
HE APPEARS AND VANISHES LIKE A GHOST. HE SOMEHOW BUILT HIS RESOURCES INTO THE CITY ITSELF. HE WEARS AN AXE BLADE ON HIS CHEST, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

...
HE DIDN'T TAKE THE MONEY.

YES. EXACTLY.
UNLIKE TED GRANT... HE *DIDN'T TAKE THE MONEY.*

"WHAT ELSE? A VAST ALIEN *OBJECT* FALLS ON THE TOWN OF *EVERGREEN.* A *SECOND* GATEWAY EVENT--LESS *TELEGENIC* THIS TIME, THANK GOD.
"IT HELPS THAT THE OBJECT ISN'T *AROUND* ANYMORE...BUT WE KNOW WHO THE *SURVIVORS* OF THE EVENT *ARE.* AND THEY'VE BEEN *ALTERED.*

"MEANWHILE, A MILITARY EXPERIMENT AT THE *FORT FOX* BASE GOES *HAYWIRE.*
"AGAIN, THERE WAS AT LEAST *ONE* SURVIVOR...WHO REMAINS *ALTERED* AND *ON THE RUN.*

"AND WHAT *OTHER* BEINGS ARE OUT THERE? WHAT *FORMS* DO THEY TAKE? ARE THEY EVEN *CORPOREAL?*
"WE DON'T *KNOW.* WE *CAN'T* KNOW."

"BUT WE DO KNOW THAT THINGS ARE ESCALATING. THESE NEW THREATS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY BEFORE THEM.
"AND THE GREATEST DANGER THEY POSE IS NOT WHAT THEY CAN DO...
"...BUT WHAT THEY CAN CONVINCE OTHERS TO DO.
"WHAT THEY CAN INSPIRE.
"PEACEKEEPER AGENTS IGNORING PROTOCOL. MILITARY OFFICERS TAKING ORDERS FROM CIVILIANS.
"SEASONED COPS REFUSING TO OPEN FIRE ON A MAN DRESSED AS A BAT.
"THERE IS ORDER IN THIS WORLD. THERE IS A HIERARCHY.
"THESE...THINGS... MAKE A MOCKERY OF THAT. THEY COULD TOPPLE EVERYTHING, IF ALLOWED TO.
"IF WE ALLOW THEM TO.
PREVIOUSLY, WE COULD ALL MEET THESE THREATS INDIVIDUALLY.
I NO LONGER BELIEVE THAT'S POSSIBLE.
YOU ALL HAVE PRIVATE RESOURCES, AS DO I. AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR OF AREA 41, I HAVE ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES.
BUT IF WE DON'T PUT ALL THOSE TOGETHER... IF WE DON'T WORK TOGETHER...THESE MONSTERS WILL TAKE OUR WORLD APART.

...
NO SALE.
I GET IT. UNCLE SAM'S HARD UP THESE DAYS, SO THE BEGGING BOWL COMES WITH A SCARE STORY.
BUT NOBODY'S SCARED, TOOTS. BECAUSE THE POINT OF THAT LITTLE SPEECH WAS THAT PEOPLE LIKE US HAVE ALWAYS HANDLED PEOPLE LIKE THEM.
AND FRANKLY, I DON'T NEED ANY HELP NOW.
I THINK YOU DO.
YEAH? WELL, YOU THINK WRONG. GOT RID OF THE GREEN LANTERN, DIDN'T I?
IF I'VE GOT A PROBLEM--IF ANY OF MY FRIENDS HAVE A PROBLEM--I DO NOT NEED LAZARUS CORP TO HELP SOLVE IT. CAPISCE?
...
I THINK NOW IS A GOOD TIME, CALE.
ME TOO.
SEND IN MR. HALL, PLEASE.

WHUMP

QUESTIONS?

THAT IS HOW WE SOLVE PROBLEMS, MR. HAMMOND. NOT IN A MONTH-- IN A DAY.
NO SITTING AROUND THE TABLE. NO CHUMP CHANGE. NO GAMES...
...AND NO JOKES.
HOW DID YOU...?
SO WAS THIS MURDER, OR COVERT ASSASSINATION?
IS THIS A THREAT OF SOME KIND? BLACKMAIL? WHAT'S THE POINT, CALE?

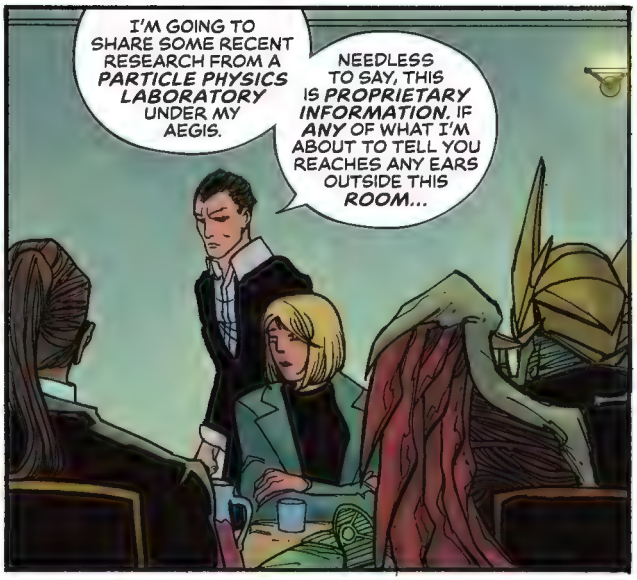
CALL IT A DEMONSTRATION. WHAT POWER CAN DO FOR MONEY. WHAT MONEY CAN DO FOR POWER.
HOW DIFFICULT IS IT FOR YOU TO GET INTEL ON YOUR LITTLE ESCAPED EXPERIMENT FROM FORT FOX, ELENORE?
HOW MUCH EFFORT DID IT TAKE FOR HAMMOND TO BE FIRST ON THE SCENE IN EVERGREEN? HOW MANY MILLIONS? HOW MANY FAVORS?

NEXT TIME--AND THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME--YOU COULD EACH MAKE ONE PHONE CALL.
UNLESS LAZARUS CALLS FIRST, I SUPPOSE--THEN IT'S A BIDDING WAR.
FRANKLY, I STILL AGREE WITH HAMMOND.

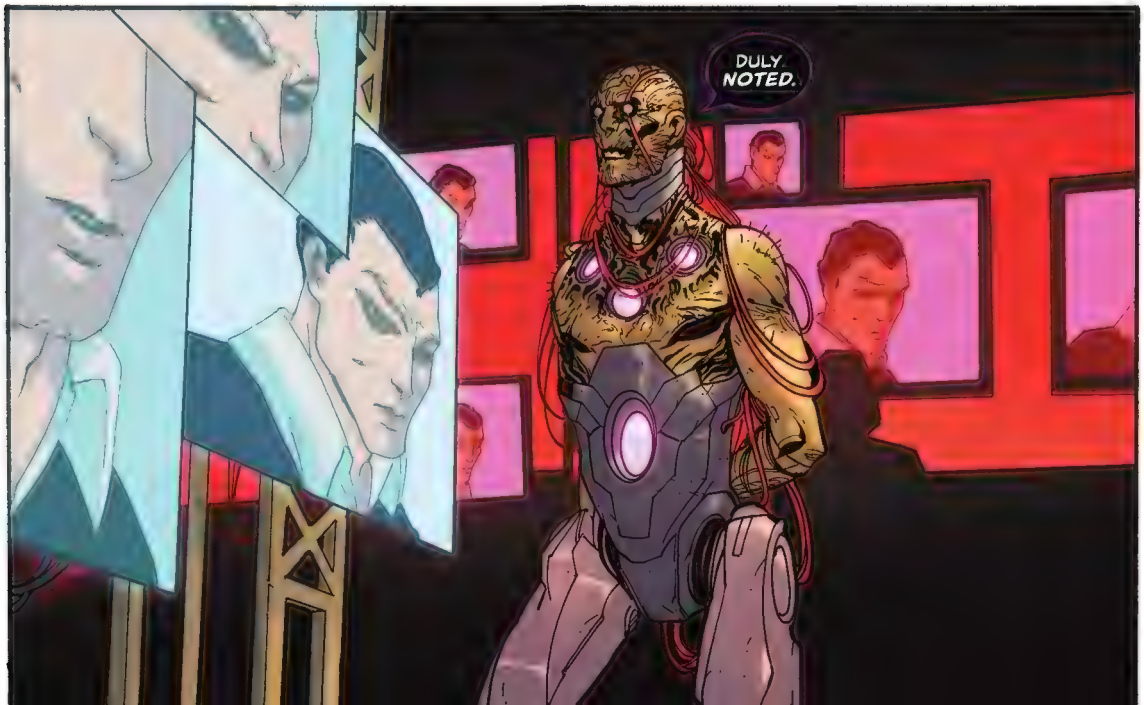
AS CONVENIENT AS AN ALLIANCE MIGHT BE FOR YOU, I DON'T SEE THE NEED TO BE IN EACH OTHER'S POCKETS.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE FRIENDS...

NO.
NOT FRIENDS.
MAY I HAVE THE FLOOR?

THANK YOU.

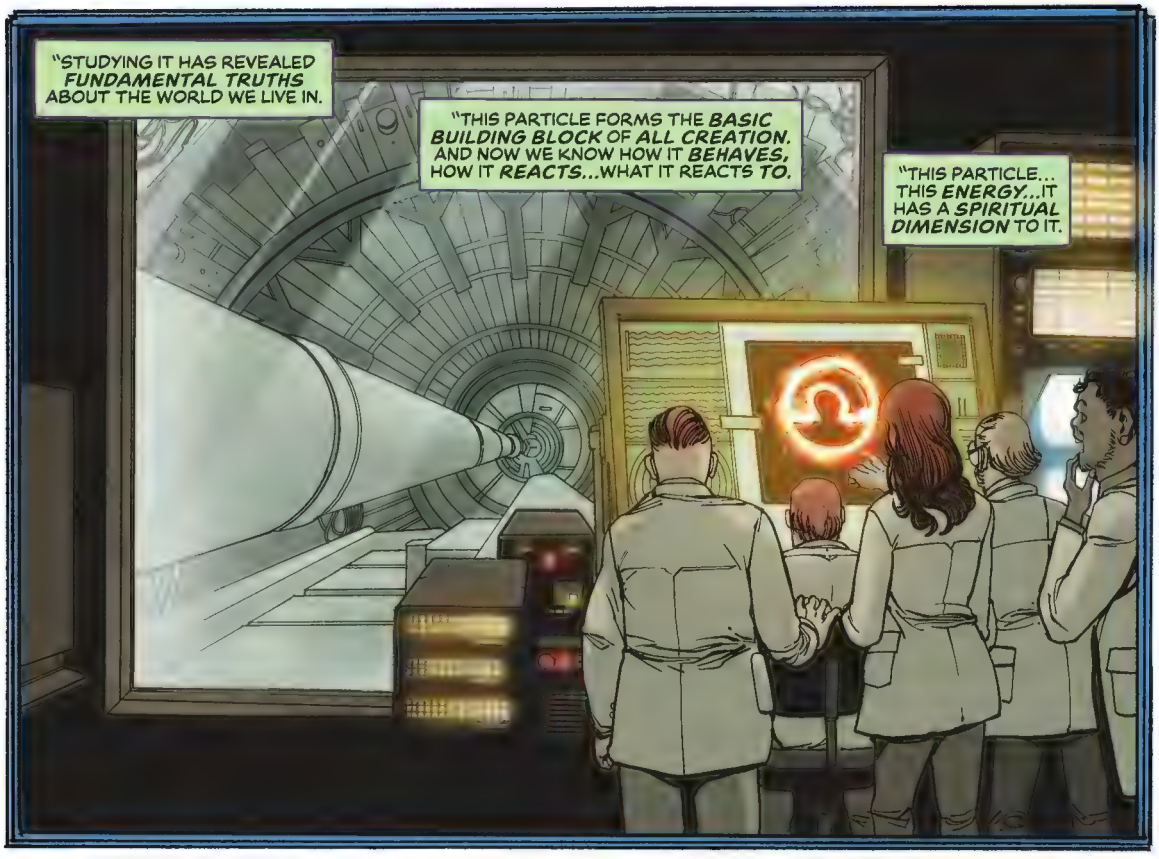

I'M GOING TO SHARE SOME RECENT RESEARCH FROM A *PARTICLE PHYSICS LABORATORY* UNDER MY AEGIS.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS *PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.* IF *ANY* OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU REACHES ANY EARS OUTSIDE THIS *ROOM...*

...I'LL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.


DULY *NOTED.*

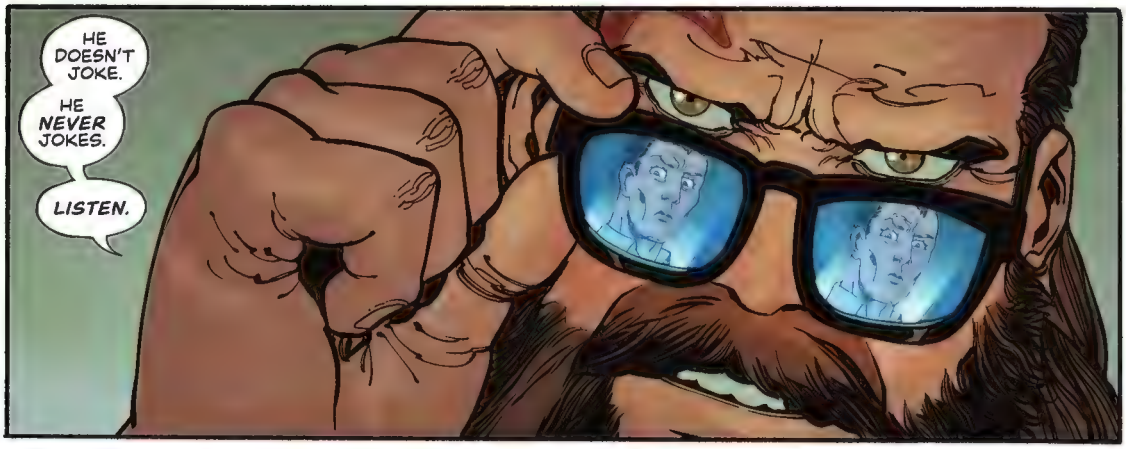
THE HIGGS BOSON IS KNOWN IN POPULAR SCIENCE AS THE "GOD PARTICLE." IT'S CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE FINAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE OF QUANTUM MECHANICS...
...THE ONE ELEMENTARY PARTICLE THAT CONFIRMS HOW THE UNIVERSE WORKS.

THEY'RE WRONG. LAST YEAR, WE FOUND A BETTER ONE. THE TRUE END OF THE SEARCH.
WE CALL IT THE "OMEGA PARTICLE."


"STUDYING IT HAS REVEALED FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.
"THIS PARTICLE FORMS THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK OF ALL CREATION. AND NOW WE KNOW HOW IT BEHAVES, HOW IT REACTS...WHAT IT REACTS TO.
"THIS PARTICLE... THIS ENERGY,..IT HAS A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO IT.

"A MORAL DIMENSION."

PLEASE. YOU'RE TELLING US A SUBATOMIC PARTICLE UNDERSTANDS GOOD AND EVIL?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SERIOUS--
NO.


HE DOESN'T JOKE.
HE NEVER JOKES.
LISTEN.

THE FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF THIS UNIVERSE TREND IN ONE DIRECTION... AND NOW WE KNOW THAT INCLUDES SOCIETAL FORCES.
GRAVITY DISTORTS THE UNIVERSE--AND SO THE RIVER RUNS, THE CURTAIN FALLS, THE YOKE IS HEAVY. WE ACCEPT THAT MAN IS TETHERED TO THE EARTH.
WE DO NOT BELIEVE A MAN CAN FLY.

WITH THIS DISCOVERY, WE MUST NOW ACCEPT THAT THERE IS, LIKEWISE... A MORAL GRAVITY. PULLING DOWN.
KEEPING EVERYTHING THAT IS...
...IN ITS PLACE.

EXISTENCE IS ORDERED AND ORDAINED.
WATER FLOWS DOWNHILL. THOSE WHO HAVE, HAVE. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT, HAVE NOT.
THE RICH GET RICHER. THE POOR GET POORER. SOME HOLD THE WINNING CARDS...
...AND SOME CLUTCH AT A HANDFUL OF JOKERS.
THIS IS NOT CHANCE. THIS IS NOT ACCIDENT. THIS IS DESIGN.
THE SORE LOSERS IN THE GAME OF LIFE SEE THEIR FATE--WOVEN IN THE FABRIC OF CREATION--AND RAIL AGAINST IT. CALL IT DOOM.
THERE'S A PHILOSOPHICAL TERM FOR THAT PERSPECTIVE.
"THE JUST WORLD FALLACY."
AND IMAGINE BEING SO TWISTED. SO FILLED WITH HATE. SO PARALYZED BY FEAR.
IMAGINE THINKING IT A FALLACY...THAT THE WORLD COULD BE JUST.

BUT THE WORLD *IS* JUST. WE HAVE *EVIDENCE.*

NOT OF DOOM, BUT OF A *NATURAL ORDER,* WORKED UPON THE WORLD BY A *HIGHER POWER.*

IF SPOILED LITTLE ANARCHISTS LIKE THE LATE *MR. QUEEN* HERE WOULD STAND *AGAINST* THAT ORDER...

...THAT, I CALL *INJUSTICE.*

AND INJUSTICE *MUST* BE FOUGHT. *CHAOS* MUST BE FOUGHT. *WE* MUST FIGHT IT--AND HOW CAN WE FAIL?

GOD IS ON OUR SIDE.

SO. *ARE* WE FRIENDS? WE ARE *NOT.*

TO CLAIM FRIENDSHIP WITH *ANY* OF YOU WOULD *INSULT* YOU. TO *SUCCUMB* TO FRIENDSHIP IS *AGAINST THE MORAL ORDER.*

BUT WE *CAN* BE *ALLIES.*

HERE IN THIS ROOM--OUR *WATCHTOWER,* LOOKING DOWN FROM HIGH ABOVE THE HERD--WE CAN BE IN *LEAGUE.*

BETWEEN US WE CAN *ENSURE* THE MORAL ARC OF THE UNIVERSE BENDS TOWARD *JUSTICE.*

A *TOAST,* THEN. TO AN *ORDERED WORLD...*

...AND TO OUR *JUSTICE LEAGUE.*

ABSOLUTE JUSTICE

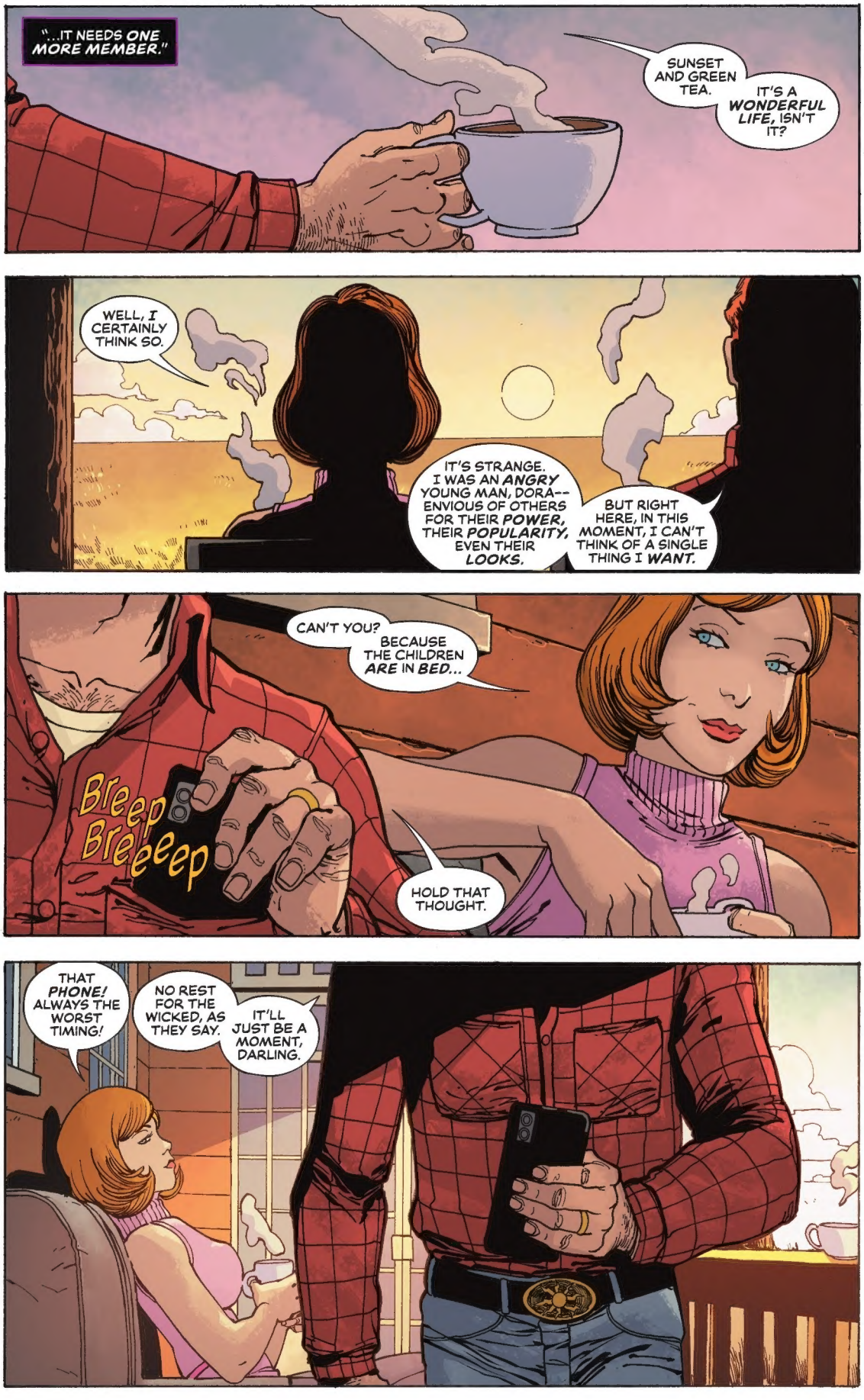
writer AL EWING
art GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI & STEFANO NESI
colors ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
lettering TOM NAPOLITANO

assistant editor ASH PADILLA
editor ANDREW MARINO
executive editor CHRIS CONROY

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER.
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

FASCINATING DATA. JUST FASCINATING.
AND WITHOUT YOUR METHODS, I'M NOT SURE I COULD HAVE ACQUIRED IT.
SO THANK YOU FOR THAT...
...MIRROR MASTER.
I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THANKS, BRAINIAC. I NEED YOUR ANALYSIS. I NEED TO KNOW HOW IT ALL CONNECTS-- HERE, AND IN MY MIRROR.
HOW IT CONNECTS, AND HOW IT REFLECTS...

INDEED. A MEASURE OF BALANCE SUITS MY OWN GOALS.
HAMMOND BALANCES RA'S AND THE HAWKMAN--THEIR EGOS CAN FOCUS ON ONE ANOTHER. AND THAWNE'S SKEPTICISM MATCHES CALE, THE TRUE BELIEVER.
BUT THIS MAN WHO DOESN'T JOKE. WE NEED TO REFLECT HIM...LEARN HIS SECRETS. NEGATE HIS THREAT.
THERE'S A NAME I RECALL FROM MY GLIMPSE INTO YOUR MIRROR WORLD. SOMEONE WORTH INVESTING IN.
I THINK FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO BE COMPLETE...

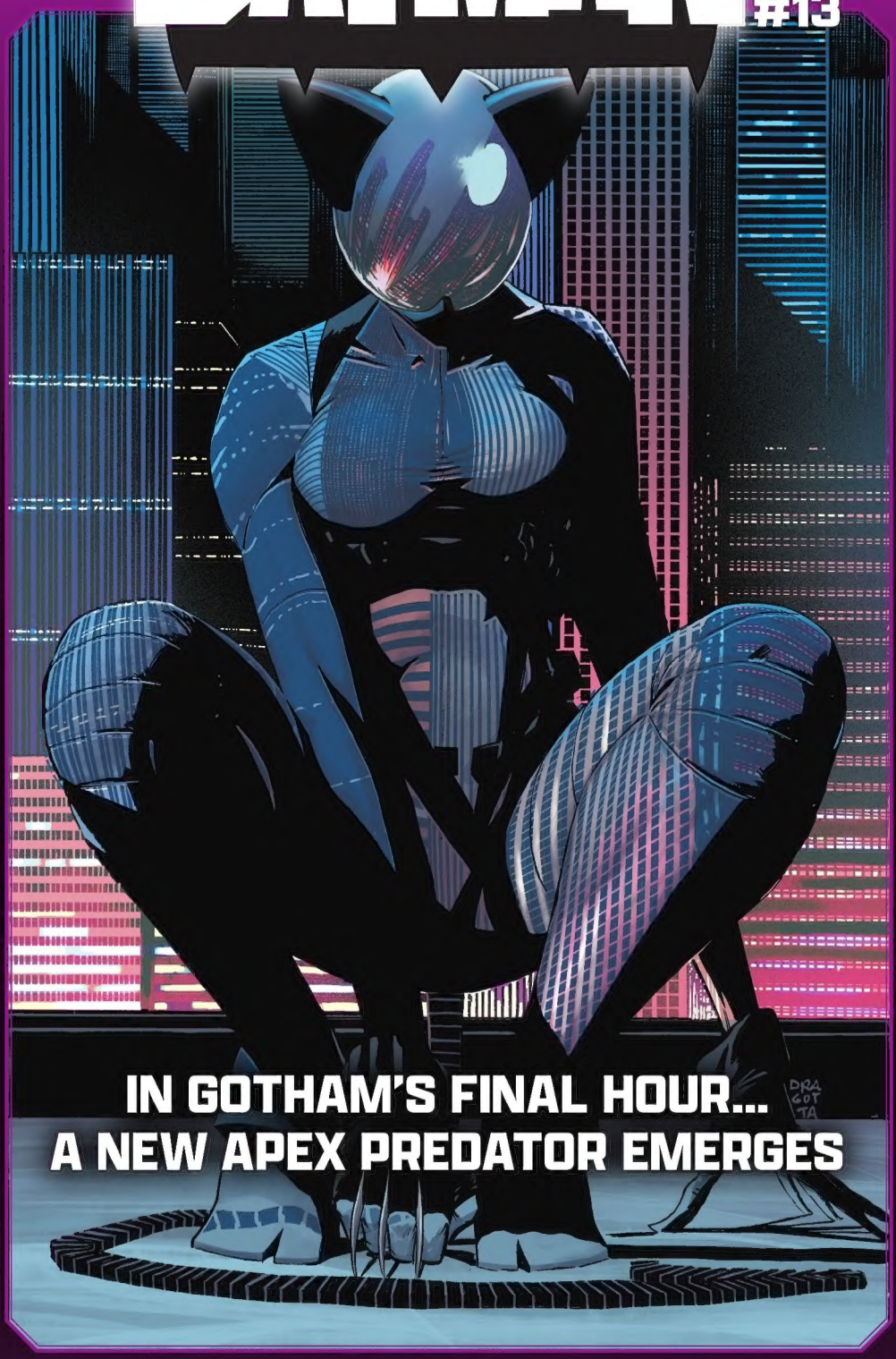

"...IT NEEDS ONE MORE MEMBER."
SUNSET AND GREEN TEA.
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, ISN'T IT?
WELL, I CERTAINLY THINK SO.
IT'S STRANGE. I WAS AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN, DORA--ENVIOUS OF OTHERS FOR THEIR POWER, THEIR POPULARITY, EVEN THEIR LOOKS.
BUT RIGHT HERE, IN THIS MOMENT, I CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE THING I WANT.
CAN'T YOU?
BECAUSE THE CHILDREN ARE IN BED...
Breep Breeeeep
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
THAT PHONE! ALWAYS THE WORST TIMING!
NO REST FOR THE WICKED, AS THEY SAY.
IT'LL JUST BE A MOMENT, DARLING.

THIS IS LEX LUTHOR SPEAKING.
HOW CAN I BE OF HELP?

DC ALL IN

THE ERA OF ABSOLUTE CATWOMAN BEGINS OCTOBER

ABSOLUTE BATMAN #13



IN GOTHAM'S FINAL HOUR... A NEW APEX PREDATOR EMERGES

Written by SCOTT SNYDER • Art by NICK DRAGOTTA

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

A CONVERSATION WITH SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

In 2024, *Absolute Batman* writer Scott Snyder and Superman writer Joshua Williamson gave shape to DC's future in the fateful *DC All In Special* one-shot—the start of the All In era and the birth of the Absolute Universe. One year later, Snyder teams with artist Javi Fernández for *DC K.O.*, a massive, fight-filled, five-issue DC Universe event starting in October and running through March; with Williamson presiding over the tie-in series. In the second half of a conversation between Snyder and Williamson, the friends and frequent collaborators discuss what's at stake in the event and the *who would win?* fun of the story.

Scott Snyder: The whole event at its core is giant fights between your favorite heroes—but not grim-dark. It's really fun! The whole goal of it is to bring you back to that kid joy of who would win in a fight.

Joshua Williamson: We all have these conversations—we go to the comic book store and talk about who would win, and that's what we want to do a story about. We have some surprises; it's not only going to be the characters you're expecting. We're definitely going to have characters that you're not expecting to get into this competition.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Noobovich

Snyder: When you die in the tournament, you're out. You turn into a statue, you're put on a shelf, and you lose. You can't become the King Omega. Whoever is the champion, the whole universe bends towards them so they become this giant celestial being.

If you show mercy, if you act in a way that is compassionate, then the Omega energy goes down. The only way is to be merciless. To go all the way.

Williamson: The heroes have to really fight and really push themselves in ways they never have.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Jim Lee and Alex Sinclair

Snyder: Some characters won't know if they can do it, whereas other characters have been waiting for it.

Williamson: Some characters already have plans on how to take out other characters.

There's an emotional core. When we did *Dark Nights: Metal*, it was very much about a Batman story, when we did *Dark Nights: Death Metal* it was a Wonder Woman story, and now we're doing *DC K.O.* and we knew this was going to be a Superman story.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Frank Cho and Sabine Rich

Snyder: I haven't gotten to write Clark in quite a few years. At first, I was pretty reluctant, because there are so many great Superman stories happening right now. The truth is, he was the only character who could really be the hero of this story. The only way to win is to become the thing you hate.

Whoever wins, whoever becomes the King Omega, gets to restore everything on the other side. If they can beat him, they can put everything back the way it was. The question of the event is, is it worth it? Is it worth becoming the thing you hate?

DC K.O. #1 main cover
by Javi Fernández and Alejandro Sánchez

DON'T MISS
DC K.O. #1,
ON SALE OCTOBER!

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